UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/AC.105/C.1/L.213/Add.3
26 February 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL
USES OF OUTER SPACE
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Thirty-fourth session
Vienna, 17-28 February 1997

DRAFT REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE WORK OF ITS THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION

XII. OTHER MATTERS

A. Preparations of the Advisory Committee for the Special Session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III Conference)

1. The Advisory Committee noted that the General Assembly, in its resolution 51/123, paragraph 28, had endorsed the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that a special session of the Committee (UNISPACE III), open to all States Members of the United Nations, should be convened at the United Nations Office at Vienna, preferably in 1999, unless progress towards agreeing on an agenda in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-fourth session makes it more appropriate to consider the year 2000.

2. The Advisory Committee also noted that in paragraph 29 of the same resolution, the General Assembly had requested the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to act as the Preparatory Committee and the Advisory Committee for the UNISPACE III Conference, to carry out the tasks entrusted to them in paragraphs 178 to 185 of the report of the Committee[1] and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the progress made in the preparatory work for the UNISPACE III Conference.

3. The Advisory Committee decided that the Working Group of the Whole could be called upon to carry out the tasks entrusted to by the General Assembly and requested the Working Group of the Whole to give full consideration to those tasks and to report thereon to the Subcommittee.

4. At its __ meeting on __ February 1997, the Subcommittee adopted the report of the Working Group of the Whole, contained in annex II to the present report, and noted that the report of the Working Group provided the basis for the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in its role as the Preparatory Committee for the UNISPACE III Conference, to carry out the task entrusted to it by the General Assembly.

5. Considering that the conference service resources available for the Committee and its subsidiary bodies would be utilized for the UNISPACE III Conference, the Subcommittee recommended that the duration of the meetings of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies in 1999 should not exceed a total of 16 days. The Advisory Committee further recommended that an indicative schedule of meetings for 1999 would be: 8 days for the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and 5 days for the Legal Subcommittee, to be scheduled successively during February/March; and no more than 3 days for the Committee to be scheduled immediately prior to the UNISPACE III Conference in order to adopt the reports of the two Subcommittees and to complete the preparatory work for the conference unless it is considered more appropriate to hold it earlier. The exact schedule would be confirmed by the Committee in 1998 depending on the progress still to be made in the preparation for the UNISPACE III Conference and the agreement to be reached at the next session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee as to which of its agenda items should be considered at its 1999 session.

6. The Advisory Committee would encourage the participation of developing countries and assistance to least developed countries in order to work actively towards the attainment of the objectives and goals of the UNISPACE III Conference.

7. The Advisory Committee noted with satisfaction the offers made by COSPAR, IAF and ISPRS to participate in the UNISPACE III Conference and its preparatory activities by organizing symposia, colloquiums, training courses and workshops and by preparing documents to support the activities of the UNISPACE III Conference.

8. The Advisory Committee welcomed the contribution of the Third Space Conference of the Americas, held at Punta del Este, Uruguay, in November 1996, towards the achievement of the objectives of the UNISPACE III Conference.

9. The Advisory Committee recommended that the secretariat should inform the organizations within the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations with space activities on the date of the UNISPACE III Conference in order to avoid having other major space-related meetings scheduled during the time of the UNISPACE III Conference.

Notes

1. *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/51/20).